

## Top 5 Questions

November 2014

### 1. Will the state continue to fund Teachscape for schools to use next year?

Yes, the Department of Education has built the cost of Teachscape Reflect licenses for public school districts into its ongoing budget. This includes Reflect licenses for all teachers, as well as administrators responsible for evaluations. Teachscape Focus for Observers and Focus for Teachers licenses are also a part of the ongoing budget; however, beginning with SY 2015-16, the budget for these licenses covers just teachers and administrators *new* to the K-12 system. As a state, we will be moving to a three-year cycle for availability of Focus licenses. Once this rotation has been established, a district's appropriate personnel will have access to the Focus licenses every three years, in order to maintain their knowledge.

Reminder: Use of Teachscape is optional. The Teachscape Focus product prepares teachers and observers for evaluation of professional practices using the South Dakota Framework for Teaching. Teachscape Reflect is Teachscape's observation and evaluation management system.

### 2. When will the guidelines regarding SLOs for SPED teachers be available?

There are no separate guidelines regarding SLOs for SPED teachers. The department has developed some resources for SPED teachers. Go to <http://doe.sd.gov/secretary/TE.aspx> and see "Resources" section in right-hand column; click on "SLO SPED presentation."

### 3. Would DOE support a mandatory civics test if it were brought to the Legislature?

DOE would not support legislation requiring a mandatory civics test. In general, DOE believes that any test administered across the state should be useful in informing instruction or accountability. Of course, local districts can certainly implement an assessment like this if they so choose. FYI: The social studies standards are currently up for review and will be coming before the state Board of Education for the first of four public hearings in November. There may be some discussion regarding civics within that context.

### 4. Can the implementation of the principal effectiveness model be pushed back to SY 2016-17?

Recognizing the commitment it takes to implement both the teacher and principal effectiveness models faithfully, the South Dakota Department of Education has adjusted the timeline for implementation of principal effectiveness. An updated timeline was attached to this week's Secretary's Message. Broadly speaking, the expectations for principal effectiveness are as follows:

#### SY 2014-15 & Summer 2015

- Superintendents and principals are taking advantage of PD opportunities to become familiar with the new model.

#### SY 2015-16

- Districts may use this year as an additional learning year for principal effectiveness.
- If districts are ready to fully implement principal effectiveness in SY 2015-16, they may do so.

#### SY 2016-17

- All districts will be fully implementing principal effectiveness models (either the state model or their own approved, cross-walked model).

IMPORTANT: The expectations regarding implementation of teacher effectiveness remain the same. Districts should be fully implementing teacher effectiveness (either the state model or their own approved, cross-walked model) beginning in SY 2015-16.

The work being done around the state regarding teacher and principal effectiveness is difficult, but critically important. These models serve to stimulate ongoing professional growth by focusing on continuously improving teaching and learning.

### **5. How will the reforms to the juvenile justice system impact K-12 education?**

The group reviewing the juvenile justice system is expected to release a report of its work in November. The group, which included a public school superintendent, is expected to make recommendations related to increased funding for community based treatment for juveniles and their families where appropriate. In the proposals from the work group, costs associated with these efforts would not fall to school districts. It will be an issue to watch for in the upcoming legislative session.